

People



## Keith Blackman

Partner, Litigation

New York

T: +1 212 259 6434

[keith.blackman@akerman.com](mailto:keith.blackman@akerman.com)

[vCard](#)

With more than 20 years of experience litigating complex financial matters, Keith Blackman has successfully defended some of the nation's largest multinational institutions in commercial disputes. Keith is a fierce advocate for his clients, and while prepared to litigate any case to trial and beyond, he is also a trusted counselor who understands that litigation often is not the most profitable solution.

Keith frequently defends financial services institutions and other commercial clients in cases alleging fraud, racketeering, breach of fiduciary duty, breach of contract and securities law violations. Regularly appearing in trial and appellate courts throughout the country, Keith is also a frequent advocate before Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) arbitration panels.

Apart from his financial services litigation practice, Keith advises clients on cryptocurrency and blockchain issues. He also has substantial experience in tax disputes, intellectual property litigation, and white-collar defense.

### Notable Work

#### Multinational Media Company:

- Obtained complete dismissal of RICO and antitrust lawsuit brought in New York federal court.

#### Global Investment Bank:

- Achieved favorable settlement on behalf of a financial institution sued by a former customer alleging fraud and RICO claims worth more than \$600 million in damages.
- Achieved favorable settlement on behalf of a financial institution client in Illinois state court against \$130 million fraud claim brought by a disgruntled participant in unsuccessful tax shelter.

### Areas of Experience

Litigation  
Commercial Disputes  
Financial Institutions Commercial Litigation  
Financial Services  
Broker-Dealer

### Education

J.D., Harvard Law School, 2001, cum laude  
B.A., University of Pennsylvania, 1998, summa cum laude

### Admissions

#### Bars

New York

### Related Content

Akerman Grows NY Office With Intellectual Property and Franchise and Licensing Partners  
October 24, 2024

Akerman Expands with W.R. Berkley Corporation's Lead Employment Counsel Adam Mocchiolo  
October 07, 2024

Akerman Partners Honored in *Lawdragon's* 2025 List of Leading Litigators in America  
September 12, 2024

- Obtained summary judgment dismissing all claims arising from the plaintiffs' unsuccessful participation in tax strategy. The dismissal was affirmed on appeal to the Seventh Circuit.
- Following a 20-day FINRA arbitration spanning 11 months in Newark, filed by four consolidated parties seeking damages in excess of \$35 million, obtained denial of all claims.
- Obtained dismissal of numerous multimillion-dollar fraud and breach of fiduciary duty claims brought by participants in unsuccessful tax shelters, in state and federal trial and appellate courts, as well as before FINRA arbitration panels.

#### Financial Institution:

- Defended a residential mortgage banking company against indemnification claims brought by a multinational investment bank that sold residential mortgage-backed securities (RMBSs).

### Related Professional Experience

- U.S. Department of Justice, Computer Crimes and Intellectual Property, Intern, 1999

### Published Work and Lectures

- FINRA Facts and Trends Monthly Newsletter/Lexis Nexis Practical Guidance, Co-Author, "FINRA Trends and Developments," May 2022-Present
- *Cointelegraph*, Quoted, "Crypto Firms Brace for Intensified SEC, CFTC Action After Regulator Warning," May 10, 2024
- *Law360*, Author, "ShapeShift Fine Epitomizes SEC's Crypto Policy, and Its Flaws," March 29, 2024
- *Bloomberg Law*, Co-Author, "Time Has Come for Special Masters to Streamline Bankruptcy Cases," February 13, 2024
- *Law360*, Author, "The Questions Around Prometheus's SEC-Compliant Strategy," January 30, 2024
- *Law360*, Author, "What SEC Retreat in Ripple Case Means for Crypto Regulation," November 22, 2023
- *Bloomberg Law*, Quoted, "Celsius Bankruptcy Transformation Depends on SEC's Blessing," November 15, 2023
- *Bloomberg Law*, Author, "SEC's Move on NFTs Continues Pattern of Case-by-Case Regulation," September 7, 2023
- *Bloomberg Law*, Author, "There Ought to Be a Law Before Enforcing Unwritten Crypto Rules," July 7, 2023
- Web3 Law Conference, Speaker, "Cryptocurrency Litigation Updates," April 7, 2022
- Consero Financial Services & Insurance Litigation Virtual Forum, Moderator, "Conducting an Effective Internal Investigation," May 13, 2021

### Honors and Distinctions

- *Lawdragon* 500, 2024-2025, Listed as One of the Leading Litigators in America for Commercial Litigation, Especially Financial
- *Super Lawyers* Magazine, 2016-2023, Listed in New York for Business Litigation, Banking
- *Super Lawyers* Magazine, 2012-2015, Listed in New York as a "Rising Star" for Business Litigation, Banking